

Resources

Campus:

The Women's Resource Center & Interpersonal
Violence Prevention Center
KH 3431, 470-578-7858

GLBTIQ Student Resource Center
ST 164, 470-578-7926

Counseling and Psychological Services
KH 2401, 470-578-6600

KSU Student Health Services
470-578-6644

KSU Public Safety, Emergency
470-578-6666

Local:

The Health Initiative
404-688-2524 ext. 112

National:

RAINN: Rape, Abuse & Incest Nat'l Network
www.rainn.org, 1-800-656-HOPE

The Survivor Project
www.survivorproject.org

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
www.avp.org, 212-714-1141

Information gathered from:

University of Minnesota Morris
&
KSU Women's Resource & Interpersonal Violence
Prevention Center

Sexual Violence in the GLBTIQ Community



GLBTIQ Student Programs

Student Center, Room 164
Kennesaw Campus
www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/glbtiq
glbtiq@kennesaw.edu
470-578-7926

What is sexual assault?

Sexual violence is a broad term that encompasses a continuum of words and actions varying in degree from harassing comments of a sexual nature to sexual contact (including, but not limited to sexual intercourse) when such contact is achieved:

- Without consent; or
- With the use of physical force, coercion, deception or threat; or,
- When the victim/survivor is mentally incapacitated or impaired, physically helpless, asleep or unconscious.

Sexual violence includes rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, stranger rape, date/acquaintance rape, partner/marital rape, sexual harassment, exposure and voyeurism.

Same-sex sexual assault may include (but is not limited to) forced vaginal or anal penetration, forced oral sex, forced touching, or any additional form of forced sexual activity.

Same-sex sexual assault may occur on a date, between friends, partners or strangers.

A sexual assault is an attack not only on a person's body, but also on her/his dignity and emotional well-being.

**A sexual assault is
NEVER
the fault of the survivor.**

Unique issues in the GLBTIQ community...

Survivors who are not "out" may find sharing and/or reporting the sexual assault difficult or impossible.

Due to the lack of awareness of same-sex sexual assault, the GLBTIQ community may make silence appear to be the only option.

If the survivor's community is small, the fear of others' skepticism and/or people "taking sides" may cause the survivor to keep silent.

One's own internalized homophobia may further complicate the complexities of sexual assault.

Guilt and self-blame may lead to questioning one's sexual identity.

Gay/bi male survivors may be apprehensive to report and fear being ignored and/or rejected as overly sensitive due to the stereotype that they are promiscuous and invited it upon themselves.

Lesbian/bi women survivors may face being ignored or having their claims disregarded if their attacker is a female because women are not socially seen as sexual perpetrators.

Trans* survivors may fear discrimination from both police and medical personnel.

The perception that sexual assault services are only for cisgender women can often lead to trans* and cis-males to avoid seeking services.

Common fears of GLBTIQ survivors of Sexual Violence...

Not being taken seriously or having their experiences minimized.

Having their experiences sensationalized.

Having to explain how the assault happened in more detail than one would ask a survivor of opposite sex assault.

Being treated in a homophobic/transphobic manner by the police, hospital, rape crisis center and others.

Mistakenly being perceived as the perpetrator.

Being blamed for the assault.

Not having their experience labeled as sexual assault or rape.

Being "outed."

Are GLBTIQ identified individuals more likely to be sexually assaulted by a stranger?

Regrettably, the answer is yes. Due to the heightened homophobia in the United States, LGBT individuals are at a greater risk for sexual assaults by strangers. Perpetrators frequently use sexual assaults against GLBTIQ individuals (and individuals perceived to be GLBTIQ) to punish and humiliate them. This can be seen when an individual believes that they can "change" a woman's sexual orientation by specifically targeting lesbian and bisexual women for sexual assaults.

How can I help my friend/partner?

Believe your friend or partner who has been sexually assaulted/raped.

Respect their need for confidentiality.

Avoid judgmental comments/jokes.

Ask how you can be of assistance rather than giving them advice.

Respect their decisions.

Be a good listener.

Avoid pressure to resume any form of sexual activity until initiated by your partner.

Offer your unconditional love and support.